

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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To be sent to:

Re: MAY 17, 1960

() FROM: PARIS

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11:28 PM

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: SECTO 28, MAY 17, MIDNIGHT

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SENT DEPARTMENT SECTO 28; REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 1077,
BONN 507, MOSCOW 206

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AS AGREED BY WESTERN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AT THEIR
10:00 A.M. MEETING MAY 17, THREE WESTERN FOREIGN MINISTERS
MET 11:00 A.M. SAME DAY AT QUAI D'ORSAY TO PREPARE DRAFT
COMMUNIQUE TO BE ISSUED BY THREE WESTERN HEADS OF
GOVERNMENT IN EVENT SOVIET REFUSAL PARTICIPATE IN SUMMIT
MEETING.

DISCUSSION CENTERED ON FRENCH DRAFT WHICH GENERALLY
ACCEPTABLE TO SECRETARY EXCEPT FOR LANGUAGE WHICH IMPLIED
ACCEPTANCE OF KHRUSHCHEV PROPOSAL THAT BEST WAY OUT
OF PRESENT SITUATION IS TO "POSTPONE THE CONFERENCE
OF THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT FOR APPROXIMATELY 6-8 MONTHS".
AMBIGUITY ELIMINATED FROM AGREED TEXT WHICH BEING WIRED
SEPARATELY.

DURING MEETING LLOYD ASKED WHY PRESIDENT COULD NOT
SAY HE WAS SORRY ABOUT U-2 INCIDENT AND TRY TO REMOVE
THIS AS OBSTACLE TO SUMMIT MEETING. SECRETARY REPLIED
HE COULD NOT SAY HE WAS SORRY FOR GOOD REASON HE WAS
NOT. MOREOVER, HE DID NOT BELIEVE HE COULD SPECIFICALLY
COMMIT PRESIDENT TO ATTEND SUMMIT MEETING WITH
KHRUSHCHEV IN VIEW INSULTING LANGUAGE WHICH LATTER
USED AND THE ATMOSPHERE CREATED THEREBY.

FOLLOWING AGREEMENT ON DRAFT TEXT SECRETARY REFERRED
TO INVITATION WHICH DE GAULLE WAS ADDRESSING TO FOUR
HEADS OF GOVERNMENT

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-2- SECTO 28, MAY 17, MIDNIGHT, FROM PARIS

HEADS OF GOVERNMENT FOR FORMAL SUMMIT MEETING AT 3:00 P.M. MAY 17 AND THEN READ TEXT OF PROPOSED STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT SHOULD MAKE TO PRESS EXPLAINING ACCEPTANCE OF THIS INVITATION (TEXT SENT SEPARATELY).

COMMENTING ON TEXT LLOYD EXPRESSED HOPE THAT STATEMENT WOULD NOT BECOME PUBLICLY KNOWN UNTIL AFTER KHRUSHCHEV HAD REPLIED TO DE GAULLE INVITATION. SECRETARY REPLIED HE FELT IT ESSENTIAL ISSUE STATEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER APPROVAL BY PRESIDENT IN ORDER AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING OR GIVE SOVIETS GROUNDS FOR ACCUSING US OF MISLEADING THEM.

HERTER

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